



BINGO!: Acton resident Joan Taylor, left, received her \$25,000 winnings from Bingo Country hall manager Wendy MacDonald. Taylor plays "six days out of seven" at the Milton hall, MacDonald says, so having her win one of their big prizes was "just great." -Angela Tyler photo

Bizarre accident involves dental receptionist here

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

No charges will be laid following a bizarre accident Monday morning which hospitalized a Grand Valley woman and an Amaranth Township dog.

Wendy Poirier, receptionist at Dr. Steen's office in Acton, watched in horror as her neighbour's injured dog was run down, her husband just escaped injury and a pedestrian received serious injuries.

Poirier says a woman knocked on her door at 6 a.m. looking for help after she ran over a dog on old Highway 9 west of Orangeville. The dog was still alive and the woman was seeking the dog's owners.

Poirier says she recognized the yellow dog, probably a Lab cross, as belonging to a neighbour. Her husband, Sid, put on his coat and went to help the woman get the animal off the road.

It was extremely dark and both the woman and Poirier's husband were wearing dark coats, Poirier says. Traffic was slowing and avoiding them until another Grand Valley woman, unaware of the problem, ran over the dog again and dragged it several feet, hit the woman who originally struck the dog tumbling her into Poirier's driveway and narrowly missing Poirier's husband.

Poirier says she was watching from the doorway and saw the woman fall.

"The way she just lay there my husband thought she was dead," she says.

Poirier tried to call 911 but the line was busy. Another driver, stopped by the accident, had already grabbed her cell phone and was alerting emergency crews.

Poirier grabbed blankets, one for the injured woman and another for the dog, and helped another motorist comfort the woman until the ambulance arrived.

Pamela Clark, 26, received a badly broken leg and hand, says a spokesman for the Shelburne OPP. She was taken to Headwaters Health Centre in Orangeville, then transferred to Sunnybrooke



Wendy Poirier

Medical Centre in Toronto.

The dog was put in a car and taken to the Dufferin Veterinary Clinic in Orangeville where it is on intravenous fluids. A clinic staffer refused to identify the dog's owner and said no decision had yet been made

about whether it will be put down.

"I get so angry when I see a dog on the road like that," Poirier says. "You can't blame the dog. They depend on their owners to keep them out of trouble. I blame the owners. People just don't realize how upsetting something like that is. The owners should be liable for loss of work and all that."

"The dog was known to run the roads but its owners never did anything to control it. Some people seem to think if they're living in the country their dog has all the space it wants to roam. That's why my back yard is fenced. So my dog can't get out that way. Especially when you're right on the highway. People just don't think!"



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Union accepts Town pact

Halton Hills public works, parks, arenas and recreation staff have ratified a three year contract retroactive to April 1, 1998.

Steve McKnight, president of CUPE (Canadian

Union of Public Employees) Local 73, said the 40 members will receive a two per cent increase for the past nine months in back pay, a three per cent increase effective January 1, and a further two

per cent increase on Jan. 1, 2000.

The new rate boosts the Town's starting wage for a labourer to \$15.50 per hour.

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